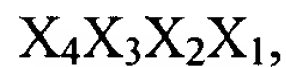


What is claimed is:

1. A peptide comprising an amino acid sequence having a cleavage site specific for an enzyme having a proteolytic activity of human kallikrein 2 (hK2), wherein the peptide is 20 or fewer amino acids in length.

2. The peptide of claim 1, wherein the sequence comprises: the amino acids



wherein X_4 is from 0 to 20 amino acids; X_3 is lysine, serine, alanine, histadine or glutamine; X_2 is arginine, phenylalanine, lysine or histidine; and X_1 is arginine, histidine or lysine.

3. The peptide of claim 2, further comprising X_{-1} linked to X_1 , wherein X_{-1} is from 1 to 10 amino acids.

4. The peptide of claim 2, wherein X_{-1} is leucine, alanine or serine.

5. The peptide of claim 2, further comprising amino acid X_5 linked to the amino terminus of X_4 , wherein X_5 is from 0 to 15 amino acids and wherein X_4 is glutamine, alanine, histidine or lysine.

6. The peptide of claim 5, further comprising amino acid X_6 linked to the amino terminus of X_5 , wherein X_6 is from 0 to 14 amino acids and wherein X_5 is glycine, glutamic acid, or alanine.

7. The peptide of claim 3, wherein X_{-1} comprises leucine.

8. The peptide of claim 6, wherein the amino acid sequence is selected from the group consisting of Ala-Gln-Lys-Arg-Arg, Gly-Lys-Ser-Arg-Arg, Glu-Gln-Lys-Arg-Arg, Glu-Ala-Lys-Arg-Arg, Gly-Gln-Lys-Arg-Arg, Gly-Ala-Lys-Arg-Arg, Gly-Lys-Lys-Arg-Arg, Gly-His-Lys-Arg-Arg, Gly-Lys-Ala-Phe-Arg, Glu-Lys-Ala-Gln-Arg, and Glu-Lys-Ala-Arg-Arg.

9. The peptide of claim 1, further comprising a capping group attached to the N-terminus of the peptide, the group inhibiting endopeptidase activity on the peptide.

- 1 10. The peptide of claim 9, wherein the capping group is selected from the group consisting
2 of acetyl, morpholinocarbonyl, benzyloxycarbonyl, glutaryl and succinyl substituents.
- 1 11. A peptide of claim 1, further comprising an added substituent which renders the peptide
2 water-soluble.
- 1 12. A peptide of claim 11, wherein the added substituent is a polysaccharide.
- 1 13. A peptide of claim 12, wherein the polysaccharide is selected from the group consisting
2 of modified or unmodified dextran, cyclodextrin, and starch.
- 1 14. A peptide of claim 2, further comprising an antibody attached to the amino terminus of
2 X₅, or X₄ when X₅ is 0.
- 1 15. A peptide composition comprising a plurality of peptides, each peptide comprising an
2 amino acid sequence having a cleavage site specific for an enzyme having a proteolytic
3 activity of human kallikrein 2 (hK2), wherein each peptide has 20 or fewer amino acids.
- 1 16. A polynucleotide encoding the peptide of claim 1.
- 1 17. A composition comprising a prodrug, the prodrug comprising
2 a therapeutically active drug; and
3 a peptide of claim 1,
4 wherein the peptide is linked to the therapeutically active drug to inhibit the
5 therapeutic activity of the drug, and wherein the therapeutically active drug is cleaved from
6 the peptide upon proteolysis by an enzyme having a proteolytic activity of human kallikrein 2
7 (hK2).
- 1 18. The composition of claim 17, wherein the peptide is linked directly to the therapeutic
2 drug.
- 1 19. The composition of claim 18, wherein the peptide is linked directly to a primary amine
2 group on the drug.
- 1 20. The composition of claim 17, wherein the peptide is linked to the therapeutic drug via a
2 linker.

- 1 21. The composition of claim 20, wherein the linker is an amino acid sequence.
- 1 22. The composition of claim 21, wherein the linker comprises a leucine residue.
- 1 23. The composition of claim 17, wherein the therapeutically active drug inhibits a SERCA
2 pump.
- 1 24. The composition of claim 23, wherein the therapeutically active drug is selected from the
2 group of primary amine containing thapsigargins or thapsigargin derivatives.
- 1 25. The composition of claim 17, wherein the therapeutically active drug intercalates into a
2 polynucleotide.
- 1 26. The composition of claim 25, wherein the therapeutically active drug is an anthracycline
2 antibiotic.
- 1 27. The composition of claim 26, wherein the therapeutically active drug is selected from the
2 group consisting of doxorubicin, daunorubicin, epirubicin and idarubicin.
- 1 28. The composition of claim 17, wherein the peptide is Gly-Gly-Lys-Ala-Arg-Arg-Leu.
- 1 29. The composition of claim 17, wherein the therapeutic drug is a compound belonging to
2 the group of thapsigargins which have been derivatized with a moiety containing a primary
3 amine group, the peptide is Gly-Gly-Lys-Ala-Arg-Arg-Leu, and the linker is selected from
4 the group consisting of unsubstituted or alkyl-, aryl-, halo-, alkoxy-, alkenyl-, amido- or
5 amino-substituted $\text{CO}-(\text{CH}=\text{CH})_{n1}-(\text{CH}_2)_{n2}-\text{Ar}-\text{NH}_2$, $\text{CO}-(\text{CH}_2)_{n2}-(\text{CH}=\text{CH})_{n1}-\text{Ar}-\text{NH}_2$, $\text{CO}-$
6 $(\text{CH}_2)_{n2}-(\text{CH}=\text{CH})_{n1}-\text{CO}-\text{NH}-\text{Ar}-\text{NH}_2$, $\text{CO}-(\text{CH}=\text{CH})_{n1}-(\text{CH}_2)_{n2}-\text{CO}-\text{NH}-\text{Ar}-\text{NH}_2$, $\text{CO}-$
7 $(\text{CH}_2)_{n3}-\text{NH}_2$, and $\text{CO}-(\text{CH}_2)_{n3}-\text{NH}-\text{CO}-\text{CH}(\text{R}_4)-\text{NH}_2$, wherein $n1$ and $n2$ are from 0 to 5, $n3$
8 is from 0 to 15, Ar is any substituted or unsubstituted aryl group, attachment of NH_2 to Ar is
9 in a ortho, meta or para position with respect to the remainder of the linker, and R_4 is any
10 naturally occurring amino acid side chain.
- 1 30. The composition of claim 17, wherein the therapeutically active drug has an IC_{50} toward
2 ER Ca^{2+} -ATPase of at most 500 nM.
- 1 31. The composition of claim 30, wherein the therapeutically active drug has an IC_{50} toward

2 ER Ca²⁺-ATPase of at most 50 nM.

1 32. The composition of claim 17, wherein the therapeutically active drug has an LC₅₀ toward
2 hK2-producing tissue of at most 20 µM.

1 33. The composition of claim 32, wherein the therapeutically active drug has an LC₅₀ toward
2 hK2-producing tissue of less than or equal to 2.0 µM.

1 34. The composition of claim 17, further comprising an added substituent which renders the
2 composition water soluble.

1 35. The composition of claim 34, wherein the added substituent is a polysaccharide.

1 36. The composition of claim 35, wherein the polysaccharide is selected from the group
2 consisting of modified or unmodified dextran, cyclodextrin and starch.

1 37. A method of producing a prodrug, the method comprising the step of linking
2 a therapeutically active drug and
3 a peptide of claim 1,
4 wherein the linking of the peptide to the drug inhibits the therapeutic activity of the
5 drug.

1 38. The method of claim 37, wherein the therapeutically active drug has a primary amine.

1 39. The method of claim 37, wherein the prodrug contains a linker between the peptide and
2 the drug.

1 40. The method of claim 39, wherein the linker comprises Leu.

1 41. The method of claim 37, wherein the peptide further comprises a capping group attached
2 to the N-terminus of the peptide, the group inhibiting endopeptidase activity on the peptide.

1 42. The method of claim 41, wherein the capping group is selected from the group consisting
2 of acetyl, morpholinocarbonyl, benzyloxycarbonyl, glutaryl, and succinyl substituents.

1 43. A method of treating a hK2-producing cell proliferative disorder, the method comprising
2 administering the composition of claim 17 in a therapeutically effective amount to a subject
3 having the cell proliferative disorder.

- 1 44. The method of claim 43, wherein the disorder is benign.
- 1 45. The method of claim 43, wherein the disorder is malignant.
- 1 46. The method of claim 45, wherein the malignant disorder is prostate cancer.
- 1 47. The method of claim 45, wherein the malignant disorder is breast cancer.
- 1 48. A method of detecting human kallikrein 2-producing tissue, the method comprising:
2 contacting the tissue with a composition comprising
3 a detectably labeled peptide of claim 1 for a period of time sufficient to allow
4 cleavage of the peptide; and
5 detecting the detectable label.
- 1 49. The method of claim 48, wherein the peptide further comprises a capping group attached
2 to the N-terminus of the peptide, the group inhibiting endopeptidase activity.
- 1 50. The method of claim 49, wherein the capping group is selected from the group consisting
2 of acetyl, morpholinocarbonyl, benzyloxycarbonyl, glutaryl, and succinyl substituents.
- 1 51. The method of claim 48, wherein the detectable label is a fluorescent label.
- 1 52. The method of claim 51, wherein the fluorescent label is selected from the group
2 consisting of 7-amino-4-methyl coumarin, 7-amino-4-trifluoromethyl coumarin, rhodamine
3 110, and 6-aminoquinoline.
- 1 53. The method of claim 48, wherein the detectable label is a radioactive label.
- 1 54. The method of claim 53, wherein the radioactive label is selected from the group
2 consisting of tritium, carbon-14, and iodine-125.
- 1 55. The method of claim 48, wherein the detectable label is a chromophoric label.
- 1 56. The method of claim 48, wherein the detectable label is a chemiluminescent label.
- 1 57. A method of selecting a human kallikrein 2 activatable prodrug wherein the prodrug is
2 substantially specific for target tissue comprising hK2-producing cells, the method
3 comprising:
4 a) linking a peptide of claim 1 to a therapeutic drug to produce a peptide-drug

5 composition;
6 b) contacting the composition with cells of the target tissue;
7 c) contacting the composition with cells of a non-target tissue; and
8 selecting complexes that are substantially toxic towards target tissue cells, but which
9 are not substantially toxic towards non-target tissue cells.

1 58. A method of determining the activity of hK2 in a sample containing hK2, the method
2 comprising:

- 3 a) contacting the sample with a composition comprising a detectably labeled peptide
4 of claim 1 for a period of time sufficient to allow cleavage of the peptide;
5 b) detecting the detectable label to yield a detection level;
6 c) comparing the detection level with a detection level obtained from contacting the
7 detectably labeled peptide with a standard hK2 sample.

1 59. A method of imaging hK2-producing tissue, the method comprising:

- 2 a) administering a peptide linked to a lipophilic imaging label to a subject having or
3 suspected of having a hK2 producing associated cell-proliferative disorder;
4 b) allowing a sufficient period of time to pass to allow cleavage of the peptide by hK2
5 and to allow clearance of uncleaved peptide from the subject to provide a reliable
6 imaging of the imaging label; and
7 c) imaging the subject.

1 60. The peptide of claim 1, wherein X_1 and X_2 are arginine.

1 61. The peptide of claim 60, wherein X_3 is lysine.

1 62. The peptide of claim 60, wherein X_3 is serine.